

NEJAC Federal Facilities Working Group Conference Call  
December 6, 2000

**Participants**

Mustafa Ali (EPA)  
Jesse Blout (City of San Francisco - Local)  
William Boulware (Attorney for Ho-Chunk Nation - Tribal)  
Brandon Carter (FFRRO/EPA)  
Rita Harris (Sierra Club - NGO/NEJAC Enforcement Subcommittee)  
Patrice Kent (Private Contractor for Yakima Nation - Business)  
Mildred McClain (Citizens for Environmental Justice - Community/Savannah State University)  
Len Richeson (DoD)  
Lenny Seigel (Citizens for Public Environmental Oversight - NGO)  
Maureen Findorff (Marasco Newton Group)  
Archie Hill (Marasco Newton Group)  
Karen Santora (Marasco Newton Group)

**Introduction**

Brandon Carter began the conference call by conducting a roll call and asking the participants to introduce themselves. He then asked the Working Group to comment on the draft meeting notes from the kickoff call held on November 17, 2000. Hearing none, he asked that in the future the Working Group members identify themselves by name when making a comment during a conference call to ensure that their remarks will be reflected accurately in the meeting notes.

**Review and Discussion of Outstanding Action Items**

The first action item under discussion was the development of the NEJAC Working Group Work Plan. Work plan development is in progress. The Working Group members serving on the subcommittee to develop the work plan are Rose Augustine, Brandon Carter, Patrice Kent, Mildred McClain, and Althea Rodgers (DOI). Brandon Carter has sent out a resource document related to the work plan to the Working Group members for their review.

Brandon Carter expressed to the Working Group that Kenny Seigel's suggestion to conduct a case study approach to evaluate environmental justice issues at federal facilities through the use of case studies was a good one and should be implemented. He proposed that the Working Group select four environmental justice topics to investigate related either to policy areas or specific federal facility sites. These selected topics, or case studies, would then serve as a means to identify and develop policy issues.

The second action item discussed involved Working Group attendance at the upcoming NEJAC national conference in Washington, DC, on December 12-14, 2000. Working Group members who will be attending the conference include: Brandon Carter, Rita Harris, Patrice Kent, and Mildred McClain. Patrice Kent will provide a summary of events from the NEJAC meeting to the Working Group.

## **Review of “Draft Reference Information”**

### Time Line/Workload

Brandon Carter then discussed the time line and workload plan that have been established for the Working Group. The Working Group will be in effect for a total of 18 months, beginning in January of 2001. In an effort to better facilitate in-depth participation and to best utilize the expertise of all members of the Working Group, the workload has been divided into a three stage process, with each stage comprising a 6-month period of time. All members are asked to provide substantial involvement during at least one of these three stages. The stages are as follows: (1) data collection, which will involve collecting data for both the four chosen case studies as well as collecting information for the NEJAC Federal Facilities Working Group compendium; (2) information review; and (3) data presentation. Brandon Carter noted that it was during the data presentation stage that Stuart Harris’ suggestion to target information dissemination to key audiences could be incorporated.

### Conference Calls

Conference calls have been scheduled for December 20, 2000, and January 17, 2001, from 1:00-2:30 P.M. EST. The proposed conference call scheduled for January 3, 2001, was canceled.

A summary of the events from the NEJAC meeting in Washington, DC, will be provided to the Working Group during the next conference call on December 20, 2000.

The conference call on January 17, 2001, will be utilized by the Working Group to present and discuss their recommendations involving the different case studies that they propose to investigate.

As an aside, Mildred McClain asked whether the portion of the minutes from the national NEJAC meeting related to federal facility concerns could be culled out and provided to the members of the Working Group. Brandon Carter indicated that such information currently exists and will be included in the workbooks that will be provided to the Working Group during its face-to-face meeting to be scheduled in late January/early February of 2001.

### Face-to-Face Meetings

Brandon Carter has recommended that the Working Group hold several face-to-face meetings to better facilitate Working Group communication. Three such meetings have been suggested and will be used to aid in the transition between the three workload stages associated with the Working Group’s workload plan. A possible example of this would be to hold a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the NEJAC meeting scheduled for July of 2001 to allow the Working Group a chance to listen to NEJAC testimony.

Plans are under way to schedule the first face-to-face meeting. Given the fact that many Working Group members are located throughout the country and that a number of participants are located in the Washington, DC area, the first face-to-face meeting will be held in Washington, DC, sometime during the final week of January or the first three weeks of February, 2001. The meeting will span a full work day. The goal of this meeting will be to have the Working Group meet together to select and develop the case studies to be utilized and to form the subgroups to

investigate these case studies. Travel expenses for the Working Group will be incurred by the EPA, and Brandon Carter will be coordinating this effort.

Brandon Carter has asked that the Working Group members send him an e-mail outlining dates they would be available to attend a one-day meeting between January 24-February 16.

As an aside, Jesse Blout asked that the plan for the Working Group to use pilot projects be clarified. Brandon Carter explained that the pilot projects, or case studies, being discussed will be utilized to identify and develop policy recommendations to the NEJAC involving environmental justice issues at federal facilities. He used Hunters Point as an example, wherein the Working Group could study the cleanup and stakeholders processes at the facility through possible tours of the facility and meetings with the Restoration Advisory Board and base commander to derive policy recommendations. Jesse Blout then questioned whether a national inventory had been conducted on existing federal facilities and the surrounding communities in order to establish a baseline level of facility information. He noted the importance of having this baseline data in conjunction with the case studies that have been proposed by the Working Group. Lenny Seigel observed that a national baseline study at federal facilities has not been conducted, but that the EPA had conducted a regional study and its results would not be of use in this effort. Mildred McClain added that the information resulting from baseline surveys and case study approaches do not always match up.

Lenny Seigel then suggested that, while not a scientific approach, it might be of benefit for the Working Group to identify areas where people of color have identified environmental justice issues in the past and then focus on these areas. Brandon Carter suggested this as a possible study area to be examined during the Working Group's face-to-face meeting in late January/early February.

In response to a question by Jesse Blout involving the types of case studies to be utilized, Brandon Carter suggested the following four possibilities: (1) a DOE site; (2) a DoD Base Realignment and Closure site (BRAC) [a possible BRAC and National Priorities List site]; (3) a Formerly Used Defense Site; and (4) a policy issue [one such as an evaluation of the results and implementation efforts resulting from the 1996 Final Report of The Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (FFERDC)]. Mildred McClain then stressed the need to build a mechanism to consult with the community as these case studies and policy issues are selected and investigated in order ensure that the community's needs and issues are being defined and met. Brandon Carter noted that face-to-face meetings would be an opportunity for the Working Group to establish a strong tie-in to the community through the evaluation of NEJAC witness testimony and possible meetings with stakeholders.

### Work Plan

The Working Group members serving on the subcommittee to develop the work plan are Rose Augustine, Brandon Carter, Patrice Kent, Mildred McCain, and Althea Rodgers. The work plan draft is to be completed by the January 17, 2001, conference call. Brandon Carter emphasized that the work plan that is produced is not binding nor will it be project specific. The goal of the document is to establish the strategy and directive for the Working Group. The work plan is to be

a living document that may be reorganized or developed in more depth as the Working Group progresses.

### Federal Partners

Brandon Carter is in discussion with the federal agency representatives over the level of agency involvement. While these federal agencies cannot be official members of the FACA, work is under way to develop a more defined relationship to better link the federal agencies and Working Group members.

### Workbooks

Workbooks will be presented to the Working Group members during the face-to-face meeting scheduled for late January/early February of 2001. The workbooks will include the following information: (1) a copy of the FFERDC report; (2) NEJAC testimony relating to federal facilities; (3) a stakeholders guide to federal facilities; and (4) Working Group member bios.

Brandon Carter has asked that if Working Group members have additional materials that they wish to have included in the workbooks, that they e-mail that information to him.

### Action Items

- The next NEJAC Federal Facilities Working Group conference call is scheduled for December 20, 2000, from 1:00-2:30 P.M. EST.
- Patrice Kent is to provide a summary update from the national NEJAC meeting to the Working Group during the December 20 conference call.
- Brandon Carter is to update the federal partners model.
- Working Group members are to provide Brandon Carter with a short bio (several paragraphs to one-page in length) to be included in the Working Group workbook.
- The Working Group is to forward to Brandon Carter any suggested documents that they would like to see included in the Working Group workbook.
- The Working Group is to provide to Brandon Carter a list of possible dates (January 24-February 16, 2001) when they would be available to hold a one-day face-to-face meeting in the Washington, DC area.
- Working Group members are to develop ideas for specific sites or national policy issues that they have experience with or compelling interest in for studying the environmental justice/federal facility issue and developing policy recommendations. These ideas are to be presented and discussed during the January 17 conference call.

### **Conclusion**

At the close of the conference call, Brandon Carter expressed his vision for the Working Group, intimating that after the face-to-face meeting to be held early in 2001, he sees that his role as the facilitator of the Working Group will ebb as members begin to take over the direction of the Working Group.